

NATURE PALS



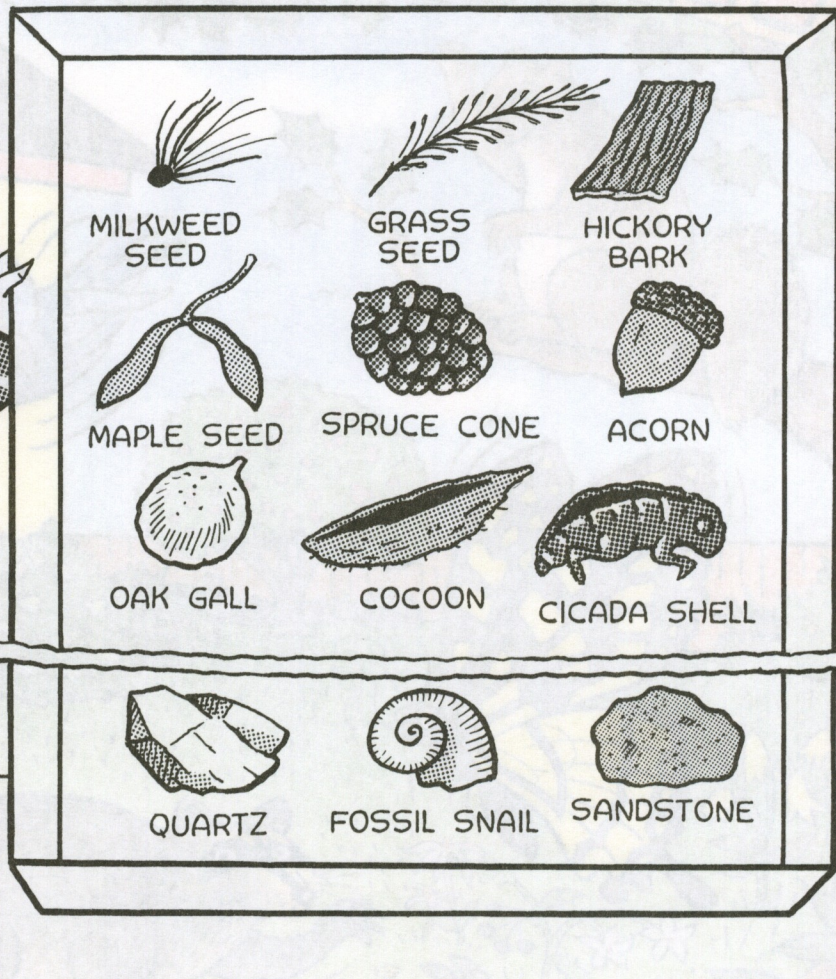
Backward

97

STEWARDSHIP

NATURE MUSEUM

NATURE IS FULL OF *TREASURES!*
YOU CAN FIND THEM
IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD.



Look around your backyard. Find rocks, seeds, acorns, insects, grass or other things from Nature. Be careful if you pick up any rocks or sticks. And please don't hurt any animals or their homes! Use a box to make a "museum" to show what you found! Put things back when you are done.

Suggested Grades -- K-3

Goal

Children will identify and explain the variety of plants, animals and minerals in their backyard.

Related Activities

- Create different "museums" at different times of the year and compare the items found.
- Discuss how many more items similar to those collected might be found in their yard.
- Have children list or draw natural items in their yard that wouldn't fit in their museum.
- Visit a Natural History museum in your area.

Grades K-1

Assist children in gathering items. Have them verbally describe items as they gather them. Review and compare the items as they create their museum.

Grade 2

Ask children to group similar items in their museum. Ask them how items are alike and how they are different. Help children mount items with glue or tape.

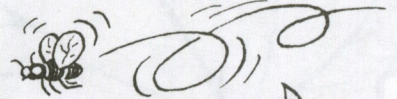
Grade 3

Have children label the items they collect. Ask children to write each item's name and where in their yard or schoolyard it was found. Ask them to describe how each item benefits an animal and how it fits into the environment.

SNACK MATCH



ANIMALS LIKE ME FIND FOOD TO EAT IN YOUR YARD! DRAW A LINE FROM EACH ANIMAL TO THE FOOD IT EATS.



1



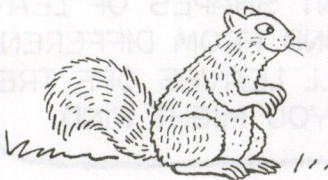
2



3



4



5



6



Suggested Grades -- K-3

Goal -- Children will match the food source to the correct animal, explain food chain relationships in their backyard, and recognize the importance of their backyard as a food source for wildlife.

Grades K-1

Help children match food sources and animals. Ask them to name each food source and animal pictured.

Grade 2

Ask children to name other animals that eat the foods shown. Ask children what time of year each food source is available.

Grade 3

Have children draw another food source in their yard and an animal that eats it. Ask them to draw a circle around animals that might be a food source for another animal.

Related Activities

- Have children make a list of food sources in their own backyard, including plants and animals.
- Ask children to keep a record for one week of the animals they see feeding in their backyard and their food.
- Ask children to consider what happens to animals when a food source in a backyard is removed.
- Discuss with children how wild animals are different from pets and farm animals in how they get food.



Let's Look at Leaves

LEAVES MAKE **FOOD** FOR TREES.
LEAVES GET **WATER** AND **SOIL** FROM TREE **ROOTS**.
LEAVES USE **SUNLIGHT** TO MAKE FOOD.
TREES NEED LEAVES TO GROW!

Fill in the blanks, using these words:

water sun food

Light from the _____ hits the leaf.

The leaf makes _____ for the tree.

Leaves get _____ and soil from tree roots.



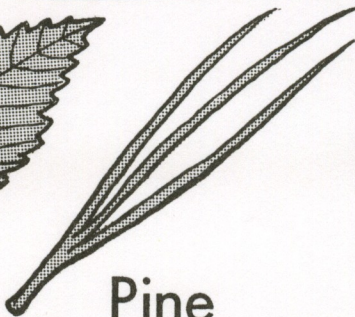
DIFFERENT TREES HAVE DIFFERENT SHAPES OF LEAVES.
GATHER LEAVES ON THE GROUND FROM DIFFERENT
TREES NEAR YOU, BUT DON'T PULL LEAVES OFF TREES.
HERE ARE SOME LEAVES YOU MIGHT FIND.



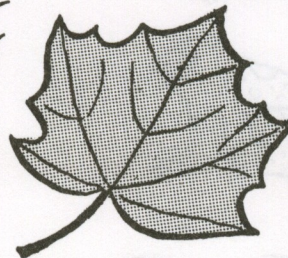
Oak



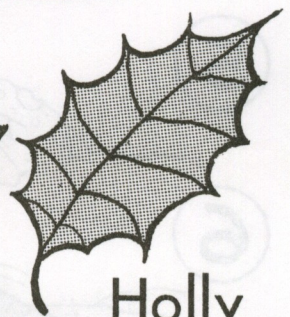
Elm



Pine



Maple



Holly

Suggested Grades -- 2-3

Goal

Children will explain leaf structure and function, and identify the variety of trees near them.

Grades K-1

Have children place leaves between two sheets of paper. Rub a crayon across the top piece of paper to make a leaf print.

Grade 2

Have children place different leaves between pieces of waxed paper. Press the leaves in a heavy book.
Have children trace leaf outlines.

Grade 3

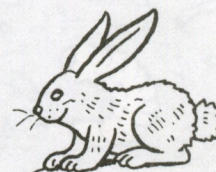
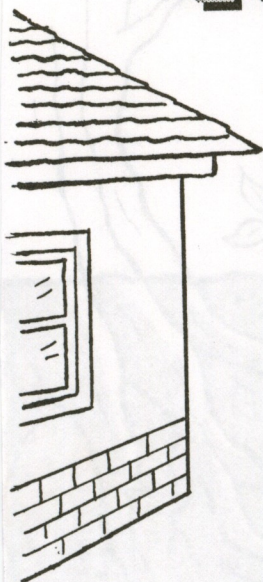
Have children mount leaves on pieces of paper. Ask them to write the name of the tree on each page. Place the pages in a notebook to make a leaf guide for their area. They can also collect or draw twigs and seeds.

Related Activities

- Create a leaf poster or bulletin board. Draw a blank tree trunk. Help children mount leaves on the tree.
- Have children make a list of trees in their area which lose leaves in the fall and those that stay green during winter.
- Observe one tree during each season. Keep a Leaf Diary. Note when trees get new leaves, and when leaves grow, change color and fall. Sketch the tree at different times of the year.
- Tree leaves are important food for animals. Have children observe and list animals that eat leaves.

Make a Home

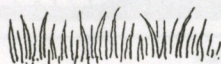
ANIMALS NEED A PLACE TO LIVE AND FOOD TO EAT. DRAW IN HOMES AND FOOD FOR THE ANIMALS IN THIS YARD. HOW CAN YOU SHARE YOUR OWN YARD?



HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN USE IN THIS PICTURE AND IN YOUR YARD. WHAT OTHER THINGS CAN YOU ADD?



Flowering plants



Strip of grass



Bird house



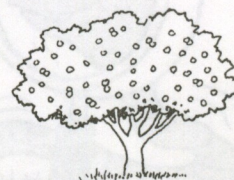
Shrub with berries



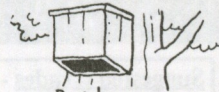
Bird bath



Group of stones



Tree with fruits and nuts



Bat house

Suggested Grades -- 2-3

Goal -- Children will explain the importance of habitat for wildlife and identify various natural and constructed shelters for wildlife habitat.

Grades K-1

Explore a backyard or park and point out potential wildlife habitat. Carefully turn over rocks, fallen limbs and piles of leaves. See what lives there. Return them to their original spot.

Grade 2

Have children count how many animals they see in their backyard or schoolyard. Have them identify the animals' homes and food sources.

Grade 3

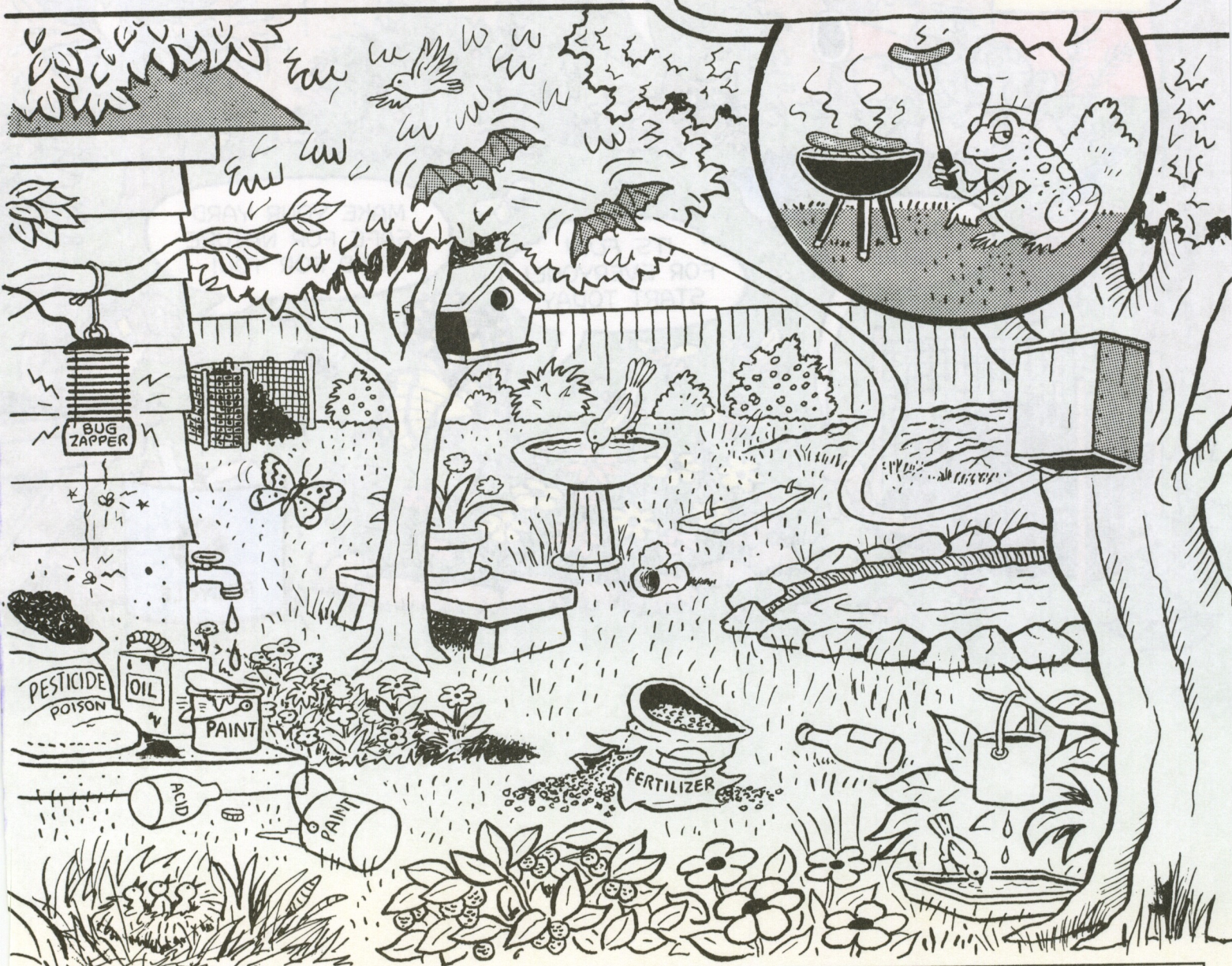
Have children conduct a wildlife census in their yard. Add one or more of the improvements listed above to the yard. Are any new animals attracted to the area?

Related Activities

- Get plans for a bird house or bat house. Together, children and adults can build it and mount it in the yard.
- Visit a local nursery. Learn what plants in your area provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Help children plant a tree in their yard or in a public park. Explain the different parts of the tree and how the tree provides food and shelter.
- At night, place a flashlight under a piece of white cloth. Examine the insects and other wildlife it attracts. Point out how some animals are nocturnal, moving and feeding at night, and sleeping in the daytime.

Build A Better Backyard

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR BACKYARD A BETTER PLACE! A GOOD BACKYARD GIVES ANIMALS **FOOD, WATER** AND **HOMES**, AND IT GIVES YOU **FUN**! CIRCLE THE THINGS IN THIS PICTURE YOU WANT IN YOUR BACKYARD. DRAW AN "X" ON THINGS YOU DONT WANT THERE.



Suggested Grades -- K-3

Goal -- Children will explain how specific elements affect backyard habitat and how to properly manage these elements in their backyard.

Grades K-1

Talk with children about which of these elements are in their own backyard. Have children explain why some are good and some are harmful.

Grade 2

Ask children to identify a source of food for wildlife in their backyard. Have them identify a source of water. Ask how they can increase food and water availability.

Grade 3

Help children add a source of water, food or shelter to a yard. Help them remove items that may degrade the habitat. Encourage them to observe changes that their actions cause.

Related Activities

- Encourage children to talk with parents about letting a corner or strip of their yard grow naturally. Explain how native plants provide excellent food and shelter. Explain how their natural area can be mowed after plants have gone to seed in the fall, but not lower than 4 or 5 inches.
- Find out how your town, city or county collects hazardous household materials. Ask children to share this information with parents and encourage them to dispose of these materials safely.
- Help children add a water source to a yard. Poke a small hole in a can or plastic jug. Hang it over an old pie pan or garbage can lid so it drips slowly. Remind them to change the water daily.

BE NATURE'S PAL!

TAKE CARE OF
NATURE IN YOUR
BACKYARD!

GRASSES, BUSHES
AND TREES GIVE US
FOOD AND HOMES.

WE NEED FRESH
WATER, TOO!

YOU CAN
HELP!

IT'S *FUN*
FOR EVERYONE!
START TODAY!

MAKE YOUR YARD
SAFE FOR NATURE
AND FOR YOU!

Available from your local conservation district,
state natural resources agency and the
National Association of Conservation Districts

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League City, TX 77574-0855
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Written by Scott Deschaine and
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the United States of America.
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